



**1135<sup>th</sup> meeting of the  
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society**  
7:30PM Wednesday October 27, 2010  
Building C, Fort Mason  
San Francisco, California

**The Zachary Taylor medal  
Battle of Buena Vista**

*Michael Wehner*

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**Pacific Coast Numismatic Society  
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Please join us October 27, 2010 to hear Michael Wehner speak about the gold medal given to Major General Zachary Taylor for his exploits during the 1846-1848 Mexican War.

**1134<sup>th</sup> meeting August 25, 2010. The 1898 California Golden Jubilee** *Steve Huston (reviewed by Herb Miles)*

Our Speaker, PCNS Fellow Stephen Huston, presented a very detailed program entitled; "Numismatic Outcasts: Banished to the Black Cabinet."

The term "black cabinet" came to Steve from PCNS Fellow Larry Reppeteau to describe pieces that should be removed from commerce because they were either counterfeit or otherwise not what they purported to be.

Steve's exhibits included a 1934 Mercury Dime, apparently sold as uncirculated, but upon closer inspection appears to be a polished very fine or so. Additional pieces included an 1834 Bust Half Dollar that was a counterfeit, probably a centrifugally cast piece, an 1823 5 Lira, die struck from new dies, but too good to be true as it was made long after 1823.

Steve included Roman and Greek pieces, some made contemporaneously, some later, one, a "Becker" counterfeit. Becker pieces are highly collectible now because of their maker's great ability at replicating ancient minting techniques. Some pieces exhibited were electrotypes done by museums so they could display examples of rare coins without placing the original in harm's way.

He brought a fake 8 Reales, not really sea salvage, an "ancient coin" which was a Reader's Digest premium given away in the 1950s by the thousands, a gold 100 Franc piece with "copia" inscribed on it; an Atocha silver bar (must be from the Atocha since it states such on the bar!); a 1930 Lincoln Cent with Memorial reverse; a Chinese "Ghost Face" or "Ant Nose" piece made of stone, and many other interesting pieces. Well done and well illustrated!



## August 2010 Exhibits

*Jerry* brought some "gawd awful" tokens, i.e., Mills Novelty, Kentucky Bar, an NW Frontier (India) token, an English token, a slot machine token, and a British ½ penny counter-stamped with an obscure design.

*Ed* brought back some acquisitions from his Yellowstone Park visit, some encapsulated and cardboarded state quarters from Hot Springs and Grand Canyon; some U.S. (Santa Cruz) and foreign lighthouses, La Phar de Muanda, Tres Reyes, & Occussi-Ambieno.

*Scott* (long time no see!) exhibited his latest Belgian Congo pieces, both uncirculated; a 1909 10 centimes & 1908 20 centimes; a slabbed Mexican token from either Aguascalientes or Baja California Norte (can't be from both places as they are distinct!), and showed us his name as a contributor in the new 1901-2000 Krause Standard Catalog of Coins of the World!

Guest *Glen* brought a Great Britain 4 pence from 1840 with a potential die break or a brockage.

*Herb* exhibited three items from his own "black cabinet" a holed Feutchwanger cent; a U.S. Trade dollar that has been hollowed out and made into a locket case or "Opium dollar" and a modern concoction of a Barack Obama satirical dollar with the motto "In Government We Trust!"

*Catz* brought his latest acquisition from the Old Mint Coin Show; a 2006 U.S. Silver Dollar featuring, what else, the "Old Mint" otherwise known as the Granite Lady.

*Whalen* demonstrated how interconnected life can be; he brought his booklet "San Francisciana Photographs of Three World Fairs" featuring scenes of the 1894, 1915 & 1939-40 fairs in and around San Francisco. One photo shows the L. A. Thompson train at the 1894 fair, and another photo of a train spur also made by Thompson which ran from Santa Cruz to Santa Clara County. He mentioned that the train route taken from Santa Cruz north now includes the street on which he and *Sandra* live, Thompson Avenue, named after the very same train developer!

### August 2010 Exhibits (continued)

*Bill* exhibited three German coins, nothing special in and of themselves, except these particular coins had been carried as pocket pieces by his father-in-law throughout Germany during World War II, and were willed to him as a collector who would appreciate the historic significance.

Lastly, *Steve* exhibited all the coins illustrated in his "Black Cabinet" presentation and gave each attendee one of his own "Siege of Laudanum" pieces, a "coin" designed to appear similar to an ancient piece but made of pewter and hand struck from original handmade dies; a nice surprise to those who attended!

### IN MEMORIAM

Jay William Patterson III, who served the City and County of San Francisco for many years as Registrar of Voters, died peacefully on August 10, 2010 of lung cancer. Mr. Patterson was an avid collector, a member and former President of PCNS.

He is credited with inventing the "provisional ballot" allowing a vote to be cast when there is a question regarding the voter's eligibility. The provisional ballot allows a ballot to be cast and the facts to be determined satisfactorily later. Thus, incorrect addresses, misspelled voter's names, and other inconsistencies would not prevent the casting of a legitimate vote. This San Francisco development has spread throughout the nation being enacted into Federal Law by the "Help American Vote Act" of 2002.